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Silverton Town Board and San Juan County Commissioners Pass Resolution Seeking Partners to Secure Federal Disaster Aid to Address Leaking Mines Quick Clean-up Wanted

SILVERTON, Colo. – The Town of Silverton Board of Trustees and the San Juan County Commission approved a joint resolution to work with their partners in the Animas River Basin and request federal funding to address the widespread long-term environmental and economic impacts from the Gold King Mine disaster, which unleashed 3 million gallons of toxic mine drainage into Cement Creek on Aug. 5.

The Board of Trustees approved the resolution last night and the County Commission gave its approval at a special meeting this morning. The resolution can be found at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/townofsilverton/atom/26841>

The resolution calls for elected leaders and staff in Silverton and San Juan County to immediately begin working with partners in the Animas River Basin to secure immediate and long-term funding to address the issue of leaking mines. Some possible projects include building and operating a water treatment facility for the acid mine drainage in upper Cement Creek; remediation of the contaminated mines in the Upper Animas River Basin; supporting scientific research and the development of technology to protect the watershed; and funding for economic and environmental recovery for downstream communities, including those of the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute and Navajo nations.